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#1 - ACTION

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SUSPENSE		Date _____			

Remarks

Executive Secretary

8 JAN 86

Date

3637 (10-81)

STAT



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Federal Holiday Commission

Executive Registry

0016

Chairperson

Coretta Scott King

Vice Chairperson

The Honorable James R. Thompson

Commissioners

George W. Armstrong

Rep. Jim A. Courter

Hon. Lawrence F. Davenport

Sen. Robert Dole

Rosslee Green Douglas

Christine King Farris

Murray Finley

Mary Harwood Futrell

Rep. William H. Gray, III

Katie Hall

Jesse Hill, Jr.

Sen. Ernest F. Hollings

Edward G. Jefferson

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

Yolanda King

Jewel S. Lafontant

Rep. Mickey Leland

Edward Hirsch Levi

Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery

Sen. Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.

Gregory T. Moore

Mario G. Obledo

Hon. Clarence M. Pendleton, Jr.

Claire Randall

Rep. Ralph Regula

James P. Shannon

Peter V. Ueberroth

Stevie Wonder

Mayor Andrew Young

MEMO TO FEDERAL AGENCY AND EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE AND OTHERS

From: Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission
O. H. Laster *OK*

Subj: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE

The Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs of the Department of Health and Human Services, Stephanie Lee-Miller, has already communicated with some of your agencies relative to the observance of the first legal Federal Holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. This memorandum suggests ideas regarding the assistance that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission can provide. The Commission was established by the Ninety-eighth Congress of the United States, and approved by President Reagan last August.

Two main purposes of the Commission relative to the observance are:

- 1) To Encourage appropriate ceremonies and activities.
- 2) To Provide advice and assistance to Federal, State, and local governments...

This is where I, as agency coordinator, am involved. Some agencies have been programatically observing the life and work of Dr. King, Jr. for years. Agencies in this category, and for those that are relatively new in planning and implementing programs, may still want to be aware of some of the Commission resources. The Commission can provide you with information and material that you might want to incorporate into your program. For example; Living the Dream—A Call for a Celebration of Freedom and Justice, suggests ideas that your agency or private organization may want to consider.

Executive Director

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Washington, D.C. 20410

(202) 755-1005

Contributions may be made to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Corporation,
a Nonprofit Charitable Organization formed to carry out the work of the Commission.

- 2 -

The large pledge board and small pledge cards may be used ideally for an appropriate photo ceremony (see enclosed U.S.A. Today photo) with your director taking the lead signing the pledge board, and the employees signing the cards.

Under separate cover I'm posting the materials to the Office of your agency responsible for the Observance.

If there are any questions please contact me at 755-1005.

Coretta Scott King
Chairperson

People of all races, religions, classes, politics and stations in life are coming together in a spirit of unity to make Monday, January 20, 1986, a day of national commitment and renewed American Patriotism. They are setting in motion a great celebration of freedom and justice in honor of America's hero and patriot, Martin Luther King, Jr.

This special recognition accorded Martin by the American people provides a unique opportunity for all Americans to reaffirm their faith in the values which distinguish our republic in the world.

Martin knew that America's conscience would be a powerful force for reform when aroused. So each year, Martin's National Birthday Celebration will rekindle in the hearts of all of our people, a new pride in America, a determination to make it an even greater nation.

On January 20, 1986, "Martin's Day", let us participate in activities that seek to achieve equality and justice, freedom and peace for our nation and the world. Join us and be a part of history by Living the Dream.

Coretta Scott King

The Commission

For our nation's first observance of the holiday, Congress believed it was appropriate for the Federal government to coordinate efforts with Americans of diverse backgrounds, with Federal, State and local governments, and with private organizations. Congress, therefore, established the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission to encourage appropriate ceremonies and activities and to provide advice and assistance to both the public and private sectors with respect to planning and participating on that historical day of January 20, 1986.

Commission Membership

The Commission is composed of 31 members who represent the support and respect all segments of our society hold for Dr. King. Coretta Scott King serves as the Chairperson of the commission and Governor James R. Thompson of Illinois is the Vice Chairperson. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sister, Christine King Farris, and his daughter, Yolanda King, also serve as Commission members. Other commissioners are:

George W. Armstrong	Jewel S. LaFontant
Gong James A. Courter	Edward Hirsch Levi
(R New Jersey)	Reverend Doctor
Hon. Lawrence E.	Joseph E. Lowery
Davenport	Sen. Charles McC. Mathias Jr.
Sen. Robert Dole	(R Maryland)
(R Kansas)	Gregory T. Moore
Hon. Rosslee Green	Mario Obledo
Douglas	Hon. Clarence M.
Murray Finley	Pendleton Jr.
Mark H. Woodruff	Clare Randall
Gong William H. Gray III	Gong Ralph Regula
(D Pennsylvania)	(R Ohio)
Hon. Katie Hall	James P. Shannon
Jessie Hill, Jr.	Peter V. Lehmann
Sen. Ernest F. Hollings	Stevie Wonder
(D South Carolina)	Hon. Andrew Young
Sen. Edward M. Kennedy	
(D Massachusetts)	
Gong Mickey Ichard	
(D Texas)	
Edward G. Jefferson	

Directed by
Charles B.

Designed by
James A. Davis

Advertising and Design
Washington, D.C.

Use of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s name, image and writings must be cleared by the King Family Estate. Please contact the Estate in care of The King Center.

LIVING THE DREAM

Our National Holiday
January 20, 1986

Living The Dream

A day to celebrate the life and dream of Martin Luther King, Jr.
A day to reaffirm the American ideals of freedom, justice and opportunity for all.

A day for love not hate, for understanding not anger, for peace not war.

A day for the family: to share together, to reach out to relatives and friends, and to mend broken relationships.

A day when the community rids itself of the barriers which divide it and comes together as one.

A day when people of all races, religions, classes and stations in life put aside their differences and join in a spirit of togetherness.

A day for our nation to pay tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. who awakened in us the best qualities of the American Spirit.

A day for nations of the world to cease all violent actions, seek nonviolent solutions, and demonstrate that peace is not just a dream, but a real possibility, if only for one day.

If only for one day, each of us serves as a "drum major for justice and peace", then we will bring to life the inspiring vision of freedom which Martin Luther King, Jr. "dreamed".

Our Nation's New Holiday

A Day of Celebration

January 20, 1986 will mark the first observance of our national holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.

Legislation sets aside the third Monday of January as the official Federal holiday. According to the Act, "the holiday should serve as a time for Americans to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change espoused by Martin Luther King, Jr."

Across the nation and throughout the world major celebrations are being planned involving all segments of our society, including religious, labor, educational, business, government, youth, civic and civil rights organizations.

This can be a day in which we put aside all that separates us to focus on all that binds us as a community, not only in this country but throughout the world; for as Dr. King taught, "We cannot walk alone."

This can be a day in which we commit ourselves to continue "Living the Dream" of peace, justice and freedom.

Each year, more and more people have joined in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. King. The types of activities and events planned in his honor also continue to grow. Here are some observances and celebrations which have been successful. Please plan to participate in one or more of the activities or plan your own appropriate way of celebrating the holiday.

Some of the special events which have been scheduled on a national basis in which all citizens can participate are:

The television special in honor of Dr. King which will be broadcast nationally on the evening of the holiday

The week long festivities sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (The King Center) in Atlanta, Georgia, which include a National Ecumenical Service and a National March and Parade of Celebration

The special ceremonies in the United States Capitol Rotunda during which a bust of Martin Luther King, Jr. will be unveiled

Regional college and university institutes and seminars centered around the principles of nonviolence as a means to progressive social change

Special exhibits and programs at local libraries throughout the nation.

On a state and local level, the following activities have been scheduled:

- Special tributes at state legislatures

- Governors' and Mayors' sponsorship of public receptions
- Issuance of state and city proclamations
- Dedication of streets, parks, statues and portraits of Dr. King

The following additional activities are also appropriate ways to celebrate this day in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s honor:

- Support state and local government sponsorship of at least one major event which will involve all citizens in an appropriate tribute to Dr. King.
- Encourage special tributes, proclamations, or commemorative legislation by state, city and county governments.
- Establish a commission or committee representing all citizens and interest groups to plan events for the holiday.
- Attend public receptions sponsored by governors and mayors.
- Support dedications of thoroughfares, streets, parks and public buildings.
- Pay special recognition to those persons or groups who have contributed in Dr. King's spirit and tradition to improve civil and human rights, here and around the world.
- Plan a community march or parade and plan to send representatives of your state or organization to participate in the National March and Parade in Atlanta, Georgia.

- Sponsor and participate in programs which encourage interracial and intercultural goodwill and unity.
- Participate in interfaith breakfasts, luncheons or dinners.
- Attend presentations of appropriate exhibits and musical and dramatic productions by museums, symphony orchestras, and theaters.
- Hold oratory and essay presentations focusing on the life and legacy of Dr. King.
- Plan a special activity at the worksite or allow time off for employees to participate in local holiday events.
- Publicize the holiday and the life and work of Dr. King in your organization or business newsletter.
- Contribute financially to community and educational programs working to fulfill Dr. King's dream.
- Take some family action to assist those in our community who are less fortunate.
- Turn on your car or truck lights at noon on the day of the holiday.
- Fly our nation's Flag.

Help to keep Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream alive.